

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00

IO-10 SAJ-01 /068 W

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O P 291435Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 415

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 168

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS AND INC

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, US, UK, UR, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST RE INTERFLUG FLIGHT IN

BERLIN CONTROL ZONE (BCZ)

REF: BERLIN A-221, 24 SEP 73

1. SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER IN BASC JAN 28 MADE

FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT TO US CHIEF CONTROLLER:

QUOTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE REQUIRED PRODUCTION OF

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE GDR CAPITAL IN THE MARZAHN

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AND BIESDORF REGIONS, MY COMMAND REQUEST A FLIGHT

SAFETY GUARANTEE FOR FLIGHTS OF AN INTERFLUG AIRCRAFT
AT ALTITUDES OF FROM 1100-3200 METERS IN THE BERLIN
CONTROL ZONE. A REQUEST FOR THE FLIGHT WILL BE
GIVEN AHEAD OF TIME BY THE SOVIET DUTY CONTROLLER TO
THE AMERICAN CONTROLLER IN THE USUAL MANNER. FROM
MY SIDE, I ASK YOU TO GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE
GUARANTEE OF FLIGHT SAFETY FOR THE INTERFLUG AIR-
CRAFT IN THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE
BERLIN CENTER'S CONTROL OF AIR TRAFFIC. UNQUOTE.

2. SOVIET CHIEF ADDED THAT FLIGHTS WOULD BE MADE DURING
ONE-TWO DAY PERIOD FROM JAN 28 TO FEB 5.

3. AREA OF PROPOSED INTERLUG FLIGHTS OVERLAPS SLIGHTLY
TEMPELHOF APPROACH PATTERN. BARTCC HAS TECHNICAL
CAPABILITY, THROUGH USE OF CLASSIFIED RADAR
FACILITY, OF INSURING THAT ALLIED AIRCRAFT IN
TEMPELHOF PATTERN WOULD NOT BE ENDANGERED BY PROPOSED
INTERFLUG FLIGHT HOWEVER, PREFERRED OPERATION

HANDLING OF SUCH POTENTIAL AIR TRAFFIC OVERLAPS
INCLUDES CONSTANT RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN BARTCC AND
AIRCRAFT CONCERNED. SUCH RADIO CONTACT IMPORTANT
IN ESTABLISHING ALTITUDE, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY
RELEVANT IN THIS CASE WHERE INTERFLUG FLIGHTS
WOULD BE OPERATING AT ALTITUDES RANGING FROM 3,000 TO 10,000
FEET.

4. ON OCCASION ALLIES HAVE REFRAINED
FROM FLIGHTS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF BCZ AT SOVIET
REQUEST, SUCH AS DURING BREZHNEV VISIT EAST BERLIN
OCT 1975, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESTRICT BOTH
LOCAL AND IGS TRAFFIC IN SIZABLE SLICE OF BCZ DURING
LENTHY PERIODS MENTIONED BY SOVIET CHIEF. TO DO SO
WOULD SET PRECEDENT WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED TO OUR
DISADVANTAGE. ON TWO OCCASIONS IN 1973 SOVIETS
INFORMED US IN ADVANCE ABOUT SHORT LOW-LEVEL GDR HELICOPTER
FLIGHTS (REF AIRGRAM). WE REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS.
SOVIETS DID NOT ASK US THEN FOR FORMAL GUARANTEES FOR FLIGHT
SAFETY.

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5. BELIEVE IT TO ALLIED ADVANTAGE TO SEEK TO OBTAIN
SOVIET AGREEMENT TO CONDUCTING INTERFLUG FLIGHTS UNDER BARTCC
CONTROL AS MEANS OF FURTHER LEGITIMIZING AND EXPANDING
ROLE OF BARTCC AND BASC IN BERLIN AIR MATTERS AND FOR
OPERATIONAL REASONS CITED ABOVE. ACCORDINGLY, WE
PROPOSE PROMPT ALLIED RESPONSE WHICH WOULD INSIST
ON CONDITION THAT INTERFLUG FLIGHTS BE CONDUCTED UNDER

BARTCC CONTROL. RESPONSE WOULD BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE WITH REGARD TO YOUR STATEMENT OF JAN 28,
I AM AUTHORIZED ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN AUTHORITIES
TO STATE THAT A GUARANTEE OF FLIGHT SAFETY CAN BE MADE
FOR THE PROPOSED INTERFLUG FLIGHTS OVER THE MARZAHN
AND BIESDORF REGIONS OF BERLIN AT ALTITUDES OF 1100-
3200METERS PROVIDED THAT CONSTANT RADIO CONTACT IS
MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE BERLIN CENTER (BARTCC) AND THE
INTERFLUG AIRCRAFT ON AN APPROPRIATE FREQUENCY, AS
SUGGESTED IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF YOUR STATEMENT.
UNQUOTE.

6. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SOVIETS WILL AGREED
TO MAINTAINING RADIO CONTACT WITH BARTCC, PARTICULARLY
SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY COME CLOSE TO FLAT NO WHEN
BRITISH CONTROLLER, IN TOTALLY UNAUTHORIZED PROBE,
SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBILITY. HOWEVER, TO GUARANTEE
FLIGHT SAFETY WHEN SOVIETS/GDR ARE UNWILLING
TO USE TECHNICAL MEANS TO ASSURE US WHERE AIRCRAFT IS
AT ALL TIMES STRIKES US AS TOTALLY GRATUITOUS CONCESSION.
IF SOVIETS REJECT OUR CONDITION, FLIGHTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
TAKE PLACE ANYWAY AND BARTCC WOULD ENSURE THROUGH ITS
CLASSIFIED RADAR FACILITY THAT TEMPELHOF TRAFFIC IS
NOT ENDANGERED. THERE IS ALSO SOME CHANGE THAT SOVIETS
MIGHT MEET US HALFWAY-- PERHAPS BY AGREEING THAT
FLIGHTS WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY AT TIMES WHEN TEMPELHOF
AIR TRAFFIC IS AT LOW POINT AND WEATHER IS CLEAR.

7. WE ARE CONSULTING ALLIES AND WILL REPORT THEIR
REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH WE FEEL
STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD NOT PLACE OURSELVES UNDER
EXTREME TIME PRESSURE TO RESPOND TO SOVIET REQUESTS FOR
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MAPPING FLIGHTS WHICH CAN UNDOUBTEDLY BE POSTPONED,
WE MUST RECKON WITH POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS/GDR WILL
SIMPLY GO AHEAD WITH FLIGHTS UNLESS WE CAN RESPOND
REASONABLY QUICKLY-- FOR EXAMPLE BY END OF WEEK.
DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY GUIDANCE IS THEREFORE REQUESTED
ON URGENT BASIS.

8. USCOP CONCURS.GEORGE

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NNN

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